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the same general extent and positions since the waters were gathered together or as to whether, by alternate rising and sinking of the earth's crust, oceans and continents have successively occupied the same areas, the deciding stroke appears to have been delivered in favor of the permanence of ocean basins, on account of the extreme improbability that there could be such a shifting of materials in the depths of the earth's crust as would cause the sub-oceanic heaviness to give place to the sub-continental lightness which has been found to subsist.

Henceforth, more definiteness of thought may, therefore, characterize the treatment of the train of geographical questions which depend upon the delimitation and the circulation of the oceans, and their effect upon evolutionary processes.

A NEW MAP OF ARABIA

A map of Arabia on a scale of 32 miles to an inch is at present under publication in India. The compilation, from all available sources of information, is by Captain F. Fraser Hunter, Indian Army, of the Survey of India, and is the result of some years of diligent research.

The projection is the same as that adopted by the Survey of India for the 32-mile-to-the-inch map of India—*i. e.,* the modified secant-conical, a feature of which is that there is no central meridian. This projection enables the map of Arabia to be fitted alongside the map of India, thus giving, at a glance, a map of that portion of the world between Burma and Egypt. It should be possible, later, to produce other such maps to include China and Africa.

Captain Hunter's map of Arabia is the first and only one compiled on so large a scale, and it should shed much light on hitherto obscure points in the geography of that region and be a stimulus to more exact inquiry in the future.

The main points of interest in this new map are: Charles Huber's notes have been recompiled and all his astronomical observations worked out and corrected. His barometric readings have been reduced to their correct value by comparison with sea-level readings, taken, at the same instants, at the Survey of India tidal stations at Bombay, Bushehr and Aden (Loomis's Formula).

The map sheds much light on the various routes, pilgrim and otherwise, across Arabia, gives a new and definite theory as to the great Tuwaiq Range and the Wadi Dawasir system, assigns a new position to the much-disputed Jabrin oasis, and leaves little to be conjectured as to the whole Persian Gulf littoral and much of its hinterland. The topography of the Oman peninsula has been more definitely depicted, conflicting authorities as to the geography of the Hadhramaut have been reconciled, and much new data on that region utilized. Of the southwest corner of Arabia, from the large geographical point of view, it leaves nothing now to be ascertained. At the same time, all former and new information as to Yaman has been added to the work of Herr Glaser. The Hijaz Railway is shown completely.

These are a few of the many points entered into by this new map. But the chief lesson it brings home to geographers is that, by the very largeness of its scale as compared with other maps, it shows what an immense stretch of the unknown still lies in Arabia.

The system of transliteration is that recently adopted by the Government of India.

It is understood that an effort is to be made to include in this map, before final publication, the routes of Captains Butler and Aylmer and of Mr. Douglas Carruthers. The data from these two expeditions were not available when this map was completed.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

NORTH AMERICA

Carl Lumholtz's Explorations. The Society has received a letter from Mr. Lumholtz, written at Sonoyta, in the Northwest part of Sonora, Mexico. on April 4. He left New York in May, last year, to make ethnological and physico-geographical investigations in the arid northwestern part of Sonora (*Bull.* 1909, p. 383). He writes that he has been at work there for many months and has also included in his field the adjacent southwestern part of Arizona. Sonoyta is an oasis in the arid region and he had just returned there from a three months' journey in the desert proper, travelling west to the Colorado river, south to the Gulf of California and north to the southern Sierras of Arizona. The region is very little known. Drs. Hornaday and Macdougal, in their journey, about two years ago, went only a short distance to the west and south of the Pinacate Mountains.

Mr. Lumholtz travelled entirely around the Pinacate region which extends about 50 miles, north and south. He also spent several days at Sierra Blanca,